

REMARKS

In an Office Action mailed on March 24, 2004, an objection was made to the specification; objections were made to claims 22 and 29; claims 22-24, 28 and 29-31 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being anticipated by Japanese Patent Publication JP 9-237530 (herein referred to as the "'530 patent"); and claims 25-27 and 32-34 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over the '530 patent application in view of Caveney. The Abstract has been amended to overcome the objection to the Abstract. The claim objections and rejections are discussed below.

Claim Objections:

The Examiner objects to claims 22 and 29 due to the language that recites the relationship between the edges and the groove. More specifically, the Examiner objects to the use of the word "from" to refer to a distance between the groove and the first and second longitudinal edges. The Examiner suggests replacing the word "from" with "along." However, such a replacement entirely changes the meaning of the claim. More specifically, Applicant submits that the choice of the word "from" accurately and specifically describes an aspect of the invention, as each of the edges is located a particular distance from the groove. Restating the language to imply that the edges are located along the groove would change the meaning of the claim. Therefore, Applicants request withdrawal of the objections to claims 22 and 29.

Rejections of Claims 22-28:

The method of claim 22 recites that the longitudinal edge is located a first distance from a groove, and the second longitudinal edge is located a second distance greater than the first distance from the groove.

In rejecting claim 22 over the '530 patent, the Examiner contends that the surface 4 disclosed in Fig. 1B of the '530 patent discloses the first or second longitudinal edge of claim 1. However, a surface is not an edge. Thus, the Examiner fails to show where the cited reference allegedly teaches mounting a tray that includes edges that define an open groove and are located the distances from the grooves set forth in independent claim 1. Without such a teaching, the '530 patent fails to anticipate independent claim 22.

Thus, withdrawal of the §§ 102 and 103 rejections of claims 22-28 is requested.

Rejections of Claims 29-34:

The Examiner also rejects independent claim 29 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(a) as being unpatentable over the '530 patent. However, for at least the reasons set forth above in the discussion of claim 22, the '530 patent fails to disclose the forming set forth in lines 2-4 of claim 29. More specifically, the '530 patent fails to teach or even suggest forming a tray that includes an open groove defined by first and second longitudinal edges that are spaced apart from the groove as recited in independent claim 29. As pointed out above, the surface 4 is not an edge. Thus, because the '530 patent fails to disclose all of the limitations of independent claim 29, withdrawal of the § 102(a) rejection of this claim is requested.

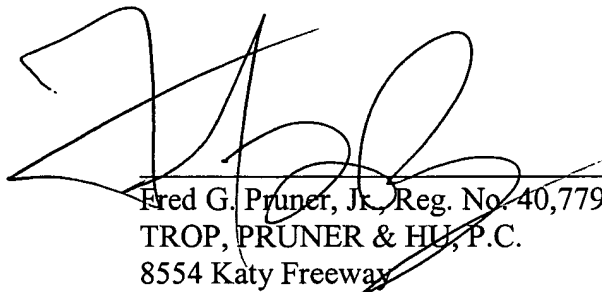
Claims 30-34 are patentable for at least the reason that these claims depend from an allowable claim.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, withdrawal of the objection, §§ 102 and 103 rejections and a favorable action in the form of a Notice of Allowance are requested. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any additional fees or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 20-1504 (MCT-0107-00-US).

Respectfully submitted,

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